

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

through the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). So far, a sum of Rs.1467.37 crores has been released to the State from the NCCF. The State Government is dealing with the task of long-term relief and rehabilitation in a comprehensive manner.

**Misuse of funds for Gujarat earthquake victims**

1403. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's role in utilization of relief funds for Gujarat earthquake victims stating the monitoring system, if any, to ensure proper utilization of funds received from within the country and from outside;

(b) whether any instance of misuse of these funds have been noticed or brought to the notice of Government;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The Government of Gujarat is responsible for proper utilization of donations received by them in the wake of the earthquake. The State Government have informed that they had received donations/funds, from within and outside the country, in State Chief Minister's Relief Fund and had decided to utilise these for the victims of the earthquake. According to them, assistance has been given to the affected victims in accordance with the rules and regulations for disbursement from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The State Government have also informed that no instances of misuse of these funds have been noticed or brought to the notice of the State Government.